Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-03 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /066 W ------ 052768

R 271725Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7532 INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GW, BW

SUBJECT: BERLIN AIR FARES

REF: BONN 486

- 1. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS (SEE REFTEL), CDU
 DEPUTY WOHLRABE (BERLIN) DID NOT FILE A WRITTEN INQUIRY
 BUT RAISED HIS QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED BERLIN AIR
 FARE INCREASE DURING THE JANUARY 24 "QUESTIONS AND
 ANSWERS" PERIOD OF THE BUNDESTAG. THE REPLIES WERE
 GIVEN BY STAATSMINISTER MOERSCH OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.
- 2. IN SUBSTANCE, MOERSCH SAID THE FOLLOWING: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE PENDING APPLICATION BY THE THREE AIRLINES SERVING BERLIN, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SUBSTANTIATING EVIDENCE. THIS EVIDENCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WHO ARE SOLELY COMPETENT FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BERLIN AIR FARES. HE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE LOWEST POSSIBLE FARE LEVEL ON THIS, THE ONLY UNIMPEDED ACCESS WAY TO BERLIN. MOERSCH ADDED THAT WHILE THE FEBRUARY 1974 INCREASE WAS BASED ON GENERAL COST INCREASES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE JULY 1974 INCREASE PRIMARILY ON INCREASED FUEL

COSTS, THE FRG AUTHORITIES SO FAR ASSUMED THAT THE LATEST INCREASE WAS APPLIED FOR AS A RESULT OF ANOTHER RISE IN GENERAL COSTS. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, FUEL COSTS HAD NOT GONE UP SINCE JULY 1974. WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE IN THE SUBSIDY TO OFFSET THE PROPOSED FARE INCREASE, MOERSCH REPLIED THAT ACCORDING TO INITIAL ESTIMATES BY THE FRG AUTHORITIES, AN ADDITIONAL DM 25 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED AND HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THE BUNDESTAG BUDGETARY COMMITTEE WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROVE SUCH ACTION IN THE FACE OF THE OVERALL STRAINED BUDGETARY SITUATION.

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